

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: November 27, 1963

FROM : C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

John F.
Brady

Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach telephoned at 10:50 a. m. He said he had just completed talking on the telephone with Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State. Johnson told Katzenbach that insofar as the investigation of this matter in Mexico is concerned, the State Department felt this should be coordinated and directed by the FBI. State took the position that the President's directive to the FBI extended to any activity outside of the United States, as well as within the country. Insofar as the Ambassador in Mexico is concerned, Johnson believed he should be kept informed of any pertinent developments but that the Ambassador should not be running the investigation.

As to current developments, Katzenbach said that the last thing he would want would be for the FBI to take Agents away from their investigative duties to prepare reports. He requested, however, that if there were any pertinent developments, he be orally briefed.

With further reference to his conversation with Alexis Johnson, Katzenbach said he had been asked whether the State Department should make a formal inquiry of the Soviet Government for information concerning Oswald and his wife, particularly as to their activities in Russia. He asked that this question be considered by the Director, as Katzenbach felt his views most important.

In thinking about the matter himself, Katzenbach noted if we did not ask the Soviets for information there would be no answer should the question of Oswald's stay in Russia be raised, other than to admit we had made no inquiry. On the other hand, he observed that we could not place any reliance on anything the Soviets said.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

After conferring with Messrs. Belmont and Sullivan, the

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

Following recommendations are submitted with reference to the points raised by Mr. Katzenbach:

1. Insofar as making a formal approach to the Soviet Government, we believe this undesirable. Such a formal request from the United States will enable the Russians to put out an official statement entirely favorable to them. The United States will have to accept this, since it is in response to our formal request, and we won't be in a position to disprove it. The State Department has responsibility here and we should not dictate the position they are to take, but our views should be stated.

2. In connection with the investigation in Mexico, it is recommended Katzenbach be informed that the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have jurisdiction in dealing with foreign governments and in getting investigative results and intelligence coverage abroad; that while we are cooperating fully with State and CIA in Mexico, the responsibility in this matter should rest with State and CIA.

If approved, Katzenbach will be so advised.

Done 2:35 PM
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✓
OK. The Ambassador
in Mexico is acting
like a Sherlock Holmes
as indicated in the wires
received this morning.